s. No.	Designation & Address of the KVK	Name of the Host Institute	Year of Sanction
23.	Training Organiser, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, P.B. No. 45, S.P. Road, Distt. Jalna-431203	Secretary Marathwada Sheti Sahayya Mandal, P.B. NO. 45, Sardar Patel Road, Jalna-431203 (MS)	1992

Relief to Farmers Affected by Natural Calamities

327. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce crop insurance scheme for small and marginal farmers, reduce the rate of interest for their loans and setting-up soil testing centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers in the country have been badly affected during the past few years due to drought, floods and other natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the relief Government give to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) A Concept Paper containing various suggestions for revision of the existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) including issues relating to small & marginal farmers has been circulated to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. A proposal for the revision will be prepared after receiving the views from the Hon'ble Members.

Another Concept Paper containing various suggestions for reducing the interest on the loans taken by small & marginal fanners has been circulated to all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Based on the suggestions received, the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance.

There is no proposal for setting up soil testing centres at present. However, under one scheme known as 'Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilizers', there is a provision of strengthening of soil testing laboratories of the State Governments.

(c) Farmers have been affected by damage to crops in varying degrees as a result of natural calamities like floods, cyclones and drought almost every year in the country.

(d) In accordance with the recommendations of the Xth Finance Commission, the States have a Calamity Relief Fund. 75% of which is contributed by the Central Government. The CRF for all States amounts to Rs. 1197.55 crores in 1996-97. The norms approved by the Government of India for assistance in the wake of natural calamities include assistance to the small and marginal farmers for:—

(i) Desilting.

(ii) Removal of debris in hill areas.

(iii) Desilting Restoratioin Repair of fish farms.

(iv) Agriculture input subsidy (for agricultural crops, horticultural crops and plantation'crops)

(v) Loss of substantial portion of land casued by landslides.